Boston, (21 Cornhill) April 23d. 1851.

My dear Sir,

Your full & welcome letter of the 19th came to hand yesterday. I lost no time in ~~tag~~ calling together our Committee. They met today, & consulted upon the various topics in your letter, & other matters relating to Annual meeting not before provided for; and I take the first opportunity to inform you of their views.

S. May Jr Ap. 23. 1851

And first, they feel greatly indebted to you for your prompt & zealous action on behalf of the proposed meeting. If we don't have a good meeting, it cannot be laid to your door, I am sure. — If we are to meet in your City Hall, the Committee entirely approve of your recommendations as to providing additional sittings in it. But is a Hall, at the most accommodating 700 persons, the largest to be had in Syracuse? The Committee would inquire if some one of the larger Churches might not be had. — The Committee, in deciding upon ~~a place~~ Syracuse as the place to hold the Annl. Meeting, had the impression that you had very spacious & eligible hall-accommodation. If a Church can be had, we are sure you will not fail to secure it.

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Then as to the charging ~~an~~ a small admission-fee, the proposition did not strike any of the Committee favorably. It never has been done, in any previous year. We think it would show, on our part, a want of confidence in the community where we assemble; and it would, we fear, diminish the freedom of the meeting. Its object would not be understood, probably, beyond the immediate neighbourhood of the meeting. Still, no vote was taken upon this, as all the Committee were sensible that you, on the spot, could better *decide* the question. As to keeping *boys* (of unsuitable age) out of the meeting, we think this object would be fully (& probably better than by the fee) accomplished by stationing at the door one or two men, with distinct instructions to keep boys from the place of meeting – giving them the sufficient reason that men & women (many of whom will probably come from a distance) require the places they would occupy). Perhaps this matter may be left undecided until the arrival of Mr. Garrison, who wishes me to say to you that he proposes to be in Syracuse on Tuesday evening next; his present plan is to pass next Monday evening at Springfield, and to go on thence Tues. morning (29th), by which he might be with you in the course of the evening (Tuesday), as we make no doubt.

The matter of reporting has been attended to, and a skilful reporter engaged, under a vote of the Exec. Comtee. passed last week.

As to the speakers whom you may expect and announce, we know you will feel a great disappointment that Theodore Parker cannot be with you. This he told me, only an hour since. It is a serious disappointment to Mr. Garrison & myself, and will be to the others when they learn it. — The reason is, that he is obliged to go, next week, into Pennsylvania, on an errand which will take him the whole week, and he cannot start off again so soon. I told him how sorely disappointed I knew you would be. — There is also a great uncertainty as to Wendell Phillips's attendance. But we shall do every thing in our power to secure it. Mr. Garrison will write & invite Gerrit Smith to attend. Among the speakers, you may therefore confidently expect W. L. Garrison, George Thompson, Francis Jackson, Edmund Quincy, Gerrit Smith (we hope), F. Douglass, Parker Pillsbury, Jacob Barker of England, Abby Kelley Foster, Lucretia Mott, J. Miller McKim, Sidney H. Gay, Samuel May Jr.

Garrison means to announce Phillips, & means to hold him almost *excommunicate*, if he don't go. — You will insert your own name of course. Probably you will think of other speakers, to be present, whose names I have not given.

It is hoped that there may be *singing* in ~~[illegible]~~ our meetings — Your order for books, we will endeavour to ~~fill~~ fill and send on by Garrison.

Mr. *John C. Cluer* (he is not a Revd.) designs being on at the Anniversary. He is a warm admirer of Geo. Thompson, is (I believe) a very estimable man, has made great sacrifices here for Anti-slavery, having thrown himself most warmly into it, & thus alienated the support he had recd., as a Temperance lecturer, from the *quasi* Temperance men of this Hunker & Silver Grey City, — and I would advise his name being put in the list of speakers. (N.B. It is very often mis-spelt. I have given it correctly above.)

C. Sumner twice, to-day, came within 1 vote of being elected. At 1 o'clk. it was placarded that he was elected. They try again tomorrow.

Mrs. B. P. Spalding died in Brooklyn on the *16th.* (I believe), having suffered severely ~~in her~~ during many weeks.

My wife desires best regards. All well here as usual. I thank you for your kind invitation to Syracuse. Affectionately, Yr. Cousin &c. *Saml. May*, J

Ms. A. 6. 1. 39